## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION OFFICE OF CANNABIS REGULATION 560 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 204 WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886

IN THE MATTER OF:

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NEW LEAF, LLC, : DBR NO. 240CR0028

:

RESPONDENT.

;

## **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

Reference is made to the Edward I. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, Rhode Island General Laws §21-28.6 *et seq.* (the "Medical Marijuana Act") and the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, Rhode Island General Laws § 21-28.11 *et seq.* (the "Cannabis Act") (together, the "Acts"), and Rules and Regulations Related to the Medical Marijuana Program Administered by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Department of Business Regulation. 230-RICR-80-05-1 *et seq.* (the "Regulations"). The Department of Business Regulation. Office of Cannabis Regulation ("Department") and New Leaf, LLC, a Rhode Island limited liability company ("Respondent"), hereby consent and agree that:

- On or about February 5, 2020, the Department issued Respondent's Medical Marijuana Cultivator License No. MMP CV 0028 for a cultivation facility located in Warwick, Rhode Island.
- To date. Respondent has timely renewed its Medical Marijuana Cultivator License and Respondent applied for and was approved as a Hybrid Cannabis Cultivator on October 25, 2022.
- 3. On August 8, 2024, and September 3, 2024, the Department's Office of Cannabis Regulation ("OCR") conducted an audit of Key Person Registry Identification Cards and National Background Checks and identified that Responded failed to submit timely background checks for the following individuals:
  - a. Kevin Borgan (Background check expired 10/21/2023)
  - b. George Cancel (Background check expired 01/26/2024)
  - c. Robert Kops (Background check expired 04/21/2023)

- d. Dennis Raymond (Background check expired 10/25/2023)
- 4. On September 11, 2024, OCR notified Respondent of the deficiencies identified in Paragraph 3 and provided a 10-day period to cure.
- 5. On September 23, 2024. OCR notified Respondent that the deficiencies identified in Paragraph 3 were not cured within the allotted 10-day period.

## Applicable Law

- 6. Pursuant to § 1.4(C)(1) of the Regulations. "[a]II compassion center and licensed cultivator owners, members, officers, directors, managers, agents, and primary caregiver applicants will be subject to a national criminal background check as part of their application for a registry identification card. R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 21-28.6-6(g)(1), 21-28.6-12(c)(7) and 21-28.6-16(k)."
- 7. Pursuant to \$1.4(C)(10), "DBR will not require a person subject to a national criminal background check under this subsection to undergo such a check more than once every two (2) years, unless a more frequent time frame is mandated and/or agreed to as part of an enforcement action, or unless DBR has been notified of disqualifying conviction/plea."
- 8. In an effort to effect a timely and amicable resolution of the issues raised in this Consent Agreement without an administrative hearing, the Department and the Respondent enter into this Consent Agreement solely for the purpose of avoiding the burdens and expenses of litigation. Based upon Respondent's representations and agreements set forth herein, the Department agrees to abstain from pursuing further enforcement action(s) surrounding the noncompliance with track and trace requirements identified in Paragraphs 3 through 5 and subject to satisfaction of the following terms and conditions set forth in this Paragraph 8:
  - a. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if the Department presented its factual allegations as set forth in this Consent Agreement at a hearing on the matter without proof to the contrary, the Department would have demonstrated sufficient evidence to overcome its burden of proof to demonstrate a violation of the Acts and/or Regulations governing medical and adult use cannabis:
  - b. Respondent represents to the Department that in response to the Department's allegations, it developed and implemented a corrective action plan:
  - c. Respondent agrees and acknowledges that it expressly selected resolution of this matter by Consent Agreement, rather than proceeding through the administrative hearing process beginning with the issuance of an Order to Show Cause; and

- d. Pursuant to § 1.13(D)(1) of the Regulations. Respondent shall remit an administrative penalty of \$1.000.00 made payable to the "General Treasurer. State of Rhode Island."
- 9. *Final Determination.* The parties agree that this Consent Agreement and its terms represent the final determination of this matter.
- 10. Waiver of Hearing and Appeal. By agreeing to resolve this matter through the execution of this Consent Agreement. Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives any right to an administrative hearing and waives any right to pursue an appeal to the Superior Court under the Rhode Island Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen, Laws § 42-35-1, et seq.
- 11. *Enforcement*. If Respondent fails to comply with any term or condition of this Consent Agreement within any applicable time period set forth herein, the Respondent will be in violation hereunder and the Department shall be entitled to immediately take enforcement or other action in accordance with applicable law.
- 12. Compliance: Laws. Compliance with the terms of this Consent Agreement does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to comply with other applicable laws or regulations administered by or through the Department of any other governmental agency.

## **SIGNATURE PAGE**

Respondent New Leaf, LLC

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Signature Erica Ferrelli	Signature By: loo Micza
Chief. Office of Cannabis Regulation	Title: CEO
Date: 1/14/25	Date: 1/14/25

For the Department: